

From: T. Charles Yun
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 3:41pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As the time for comment draws to a close, I wanted to mention that the news bits, rumors and "facts" as they have been presented to the public regarding the Microsoft case have distressed me. Overall, I believe that Microsoft has not been given a punishment that is fit for their activities. Further, the idea that Microsoft would like to offer their own software as retribution for their activities is ludicrous.

I went to school at the School of Information, University of Michigan, where we studied topics related to information science, public policy and economics. In fact, one of the graduate degrees is entitled "Information Economics, Management and Policy." A great deal of academic and real world experience has shown that corporations that sell software/information respond differently to the traditional (in terms of companies that sell a physical product) rules of business. I will refrain from starting a tutorial, but wanted to note that it costs nothing for a software company to give away copies of their software.

Punishment, in general, is generally best when it falls in between what the accused and the accusers publicly state. In that light, Microsoft's idea of punishment is definitely at the low end. Further, it is important to note that Microsoft was not willing to give away cash money, access to software source code/APIs or any other item that would actually cause them pain.

With that said, I admit that I am not a lawyer. I will not assume the knowledge to dole out the appropriate punishment, but simply offer my viewpoint that Microsoft should be punished in a manner that does not let them escape their misdeeds.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

- T. Charles Yun

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